

Serial No. 10/719,958

Atty. Doc. No. 2002P06704US

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1 18 and added new claims 19 and 20. Thus, claims 1-20 are presented for examination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response to objections to the claims:

Claim 12 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(a) as being grammatically awkward. Applicants have amended claim 12 to correct the term as suggested by the Examiner.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objections to the specification.

Request for allowance of claims 17 and 19:

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 4 contained patentable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant has written claim 4 as an independent claim to include the limitations of original claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 is in condition for allowance.

Also in the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 2 contained patentable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 17 (which is generally similar but not identical to claim 1) has been written as an independent claim to include the respective limitations of claim 2. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 is in condition for allowance.

Response to rejections under Section 102:

Claims 1, 11-14, 17, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the Examiner contending that these claims are anticipated by Reider (USPN 4,158,949) and by Putz (German Specification 198 09 568).

Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite the additional limitation that the plurality of screw connections are oriented at a non perpendicular angle relative to the horizontal parting joint (see Applicant's specification page 3, lines 24-27 and Figure 4). This is not a matter of

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mere design choice because using such a non perpendicular angle allows the inner wall of the combustion chamber can be dismantled quickly and easily (see Applicant's specification page 3, lines 10-12). In contrast, Reider and Putz merely teach screw connections that are conventionally arranged perpendicular to the parting joint (see Reider, Figure 4 and Putz, Figure 1).

In view of the above, independent claim 1 is patentable. Dependent claims 2-16 are also patentable at least based on their dependency from claim 1, as well as based on their own merit.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the Section 102 rejection.

Discussion of new claims 19 and 20:


New claims 19 and 20 further define the scope of the invention, as described in the specification and drawings. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable and thus respectfully request allowance of claims 1-20.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the objections and rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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